

**EXERCISE---EXERCISE--- EXERCISE (NLE11)**  
**State of Indiana Response to Catastrophic Earthquake**  
**1900 EDT, May 16, 2011**

*New information is in bold italics*

**DEVELOPING SITUATION**

*Indiana has received a Presidential Emergency Declaration opening the door for federal financial assistance. Under a Presidential Emergency Declaration, an "Emergency" is any occasion or instance in which the president determines that federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts to save lives and protect property and public health and safety or to avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. At this time, federal assistance is focused on immediate and short-term essential activities, such as search and rescue, medical needs and evacuations.*

At approximately 10:00 a.m. this morning, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurred 40 miles northwest of Memphis, Tenn., near Marked Tree, Ark. The shaking from the earthquake was felt throughout Indiana. The earthquake registered as a 6.2 magnitude along the Wabash Valley. ([A map of the earthquake epicenter is attached.](#)) A second earthquake occurred at 10:02 a.m. in Mt. Carmel, IL with an initial magnitude of 6.0.

Cable, landline, cellular, and internet services are down across southwestern Indiana.  
***911 centers are not operational in some areas.***

**Power Outages:** The state has received reports of significant power outages for the Southwest quadrant of the state, boarded by I-65 to the east and I-70 to the north. ***An estimated 823,125 households are without power.***

**Casualties:** No casualties have been reported at this time.

**County Emergency Operation Center Activations:** ***11 counties have activated their emergency operation centers (EOC).***

**Travel Restrictions**

***Power to the Indianapolis International Airport has been restored; however, the facility is closed until an inspection is complete.***

Road conditions, including bridge and thoroughfare closures are rapidly changing. For latest details and updates, go online to <http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/travel-advisory-map>.

***Major road closures reported include (with mile marker designated):***

- ***US Highway 50 in Jackson and Jennings counties at mile markers: 107, 106 and 111***
- ***State Road 50 in Madison (132), Versailles (129)***
- ***I-65 at Scottsburg (34), Brownstown (45), Jeffersonville (21) and Rushville (24)***
- ***State Road 421 (24, 13, 29 and 36) at Versailles***
- ***I-74 westbound at Versailles (70)***
- ***I-465 eastbound at Indianapolis (44)***
- ***I-69 at Muncie (41) and Noblesville (17)***

- ***I-70 at New Castle (126) and mile marker 111***

## **STATE RESPONSE**

Under the leadership of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Indiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated at the highest level and will remain activated 24 hours a day to monitor conditions and provide resource support to local county emergency agencies. The state is working with local emergency management officials that can be contacted to assess the damages throughout the state. State officials have also been in contact with FEMA officials.

***FEMA: Task Force 1 arrived to its deployment, Mount Vernon, at 5:30 p.m. Indiana Task Force 1 is a federally organized emergency response team comprised of emergency responders from fire departments in and around Marion County/Indianapolis, and civilians from various professional backgrounds across the state. Several specialized disciplines comprise the team, including: Technical Rescue, Search, Hazardous Materials, Medical and Logistics.***

***IDHS: The state also has deployed District Response Task Forces 1 and the fire component of District 4 and EMS component of District 6 to Posey County. Those task forces include fire, EMS, law enforcement, all hazards support and support staffs. District Response Task Force 2 will be deployed tomorrow.***

**In Indiana the district concept divides the state into 10 geographic segments or districts. [Reference IDHS district map] Within each district, IDHS has guided the development of an emergency response task force, each with varying capabilities, to support local emergency management agencies and streamline the mutual aid process.**

**These district response task forces are staffed with local volunteers including firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, law enforcement personnel and other local emergency response professionals.**

**Members of each task force are able to mobilize at the request of any county within the district, and if needed, IDHS can deploy them to assist communities in any region of the state.**

***INDOT: Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) highway and bridge inspectors are assessing the structures throughout the state as quickly as they can, but the extensive area of damage created by the earthquakes has complicated their efforts. INDOT inspectors will post "road closed" or "bridge closed" signs when possible, but travelers should not assume that a road or bridge is safe to travel if there is no sign posted.***

***INNG: Indiana National Guard has provided a Strike team to assist the Posey county EOC with communications and operations support. INNG has provided three aircraft with crews for various missions. Guardsmen are also currently providing air service MEDEVAC in Vanderburgh County.***

***ISP: In addition to regularly assigned staff, Indiana State Police has 17 units dispatched to the affected area, including providing road blocks.***

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

***KNOX: County Highway Department reports multiple bridge failures throughout the county. Five schools have sustained major damage. Multiple buildings in downtown Vincennes have collapsed. Approximately 20 structure fires have been reported county wide.***

***VIGO: The county airport is closed because of sustained damage from the earthquake.***

## **PUBLIC ADVISORIES**

### ***SHELTERS:***

***Public shelters have been opened at the following locations. (Latest occupancy figures and capacity are noted after.)***

- ***Northview High School, Clay County (40/40)***
- ***Maryland Community Church, Vigo County (0/300)***
- ***Evansville Rietz High School, Vanderburgh County (50/500)***
- ***University of Southern Indiana Physical Activities Center, Evansville (0/500)***
  - ***Additional shelter will be available in dormitories***

### ***VOLUNTEERS:***

***Medical volunteers who are able to assist response efforts should contact Chris with the American Red Cross at 317.238.1717.***

***Non-medical persons interested in volunteering should visit the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster site:***

***<http://www.nvoad.org/index.php/component/content/article/>***

***Farmers or anyone with heavy equipment and able to assist with debris removal can call 317.460.6380.***

***Citizens who witness looting should contact local police with a description, if that can be done without risk.***

For more information about staying safe during an earthquake, visit [www.GetPrepared.in.gov](http://www.GetPrepared.in.gov).

Follow Indiana on "my social media" at [www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana](http://www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana) to stay informed about this developing situation.

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**Media Contact:** THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT FOR DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC: Joint Information Center (JIC) 317.238.1784, [JIC@JIC.in.gov](mailto:JIC@JIC.in.gov).

